

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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|-------|---|---|-----|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| 0 | 2 | / | 1 | 3 | / | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Month | | | Day | | | Year | | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: | | CoC #: 503 |
| CoC Representative: Rae Anne Giron | | Title: Social Service Program Specialist 3 |
| Phone/Email: 253-798-6931/ rgiron@co.pierce.wa.us | | |
| Person Completing this Plan: Troy Christensen | | Title: MDC Chief of Operations and Strategy |
| Phone/Email: 253-284-7846/ Tchristensen@mdc-hope.org | | |

1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group: Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name:

| Principle Members | Affiliation |
|------------------------|---|
| Patti Spaulding-Klewin | CCS SSVF |
| Valeri Knight | MDC SSVF |
| Rae Anne Giron | COC Pierce County Community Connections |
| Alan Brown | CCS |
| Troy Christensen | MDC |
| Jeff Rodgers | Pierce County Community Connections |
| Cynda Mack | MDC |
| Erin Horner | American Lake VA |
| Josh Stovall | MDC |
| Katia Satterfield | CCS |
| Bryndis Njardvik | VASH Case Manager |

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

MDC SSVF and CCS SSVF programs will meet monthly with VA Outreach and VASH programs pertaining to SSVF programs changes and referral process- however regular contact with VA outreach workers (daily, weekly) is on-going. MDC SSVF and CCS SSVF programs will exchange rosters with AP4H semi-monthly with immediate referrals to SSVF providers as veteran households are identified. CCS and MDC SSVF programs will meet quarterly to compile data, update the monthly tracking tool, and review service adjustments. The Pierce County planning group will meet at least quarterly throughout the year to update numbers, check targets, and adjust the plan as necessary.

3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography: Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge"), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

| Grantee Agency Name | Grant Amount | Total Annual Projected Households | Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing | % of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Catholic Community Services | \$17,982.00 | 11 | 7 | 60% |
| Catholic Community Services | \$228,447.00 | 95 | 76 | 80% |
| Metropolitan Development Council | \$513,051.00 | 250 | 150 | 60% |
| Metropolitan Development Council | \$200,000.00 | 80 | 64 | 80% |
| TOTAL | \$959,480.00 | 436 | 297 | 68% |

4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance: Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

| | Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households | Estimated # of Needing RRH (a) | Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b) | Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c) | Gap (a-(b+c)) |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Households without Children | 457 | 231 | 231 | 0 | 0 |
| Households with Children | 23 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Homeless Veteran Households | 480 | 243 | 243 | 0 | 0 |

5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?

| | All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH) | | | Chronically Homeless Veteran Households | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|---|-------------|-----------|
| | Sheltered | Unsheltered | TOTAL | Sheltered | Unsheltered | TOTAL |
| Households without Children | 57 | 9 | 66 | 18 | 6 | 24 |
| Households with Children | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Households | 63 | 9 | 72 | 18 | 6 | 24 |

Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If “Yes”, please describe:

Pierce County has several plans to end homelessness for specific populations. Currently none specifically address Veterans homelessness.

The Road Home was developed nearly 10 years ago to guide local Continuum of Care activities to support ending Chronic and Street Homelessness. Since that time street homelessness has decreased by 60%. Strategies included increases in permanent supportive housing including, but not limited to, Housing First.

Outside In was developed five years ago to guide local Continuum of Care activities to support ending family homelessness. Strategies included significant investment in Rapid Re-housing and conversion of Transitional Housing.

Two additional plans focus on ending youth (up to age 24) homelessness and ending HIV/AIDS homelessness.

Each of these plans has components, tools and resources that will be essential to the success of reaching functional zero for Veteran's Homelessness by the end of calendar-year 2015.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), VA Supportive Housing (VASH), and Grant and per-diem (GPD) funding alone cannot reach functional zero for our Veterans in Pierce County.

In addition to strategically using all VA-specific funding to support the efforts to end Veterans' homelessness, it will be essential to blend with other funding sources available to the greater Pierce County Continuum of Care network. This includes:

- Federal Funding: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Housing and Urban Development McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care funding (HUD CoC)
- State Funding: Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG), Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), and State Housing Trust Fund (HTF) (for development projects)
- Local: 2163 and 2060 Document Recording Fees, local jurisdiction general funds for basic needs and human services, local jurisdiction funds for mental health/chemical dependency (which can be used for housing), and private philanthropy.

These funds can be accessed through the local Continuum of Care and through local application processes. The existing plans to end homelessness, based, in part, on the local Point In Time Count reference and quantify Veterans experiencing homelessness in the form of literal homelessness (sleeping in places not meant for Human Habitation), shelters, and transitional housing. They do not, however, identify Veterans as a priority in those plans. This document (along with the accompanying Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool and accompanying narrative) should serve as an addition to current plans to end homelessness in Pierce County, WA- naming Veterans as a priority. In fact, given the timeline for bringing Veterans homelessness to functional zero nation-wide in the next 13 months, Veterans will likely rise to the forefront as **the** population to focus on with current homelessness resources in Pierce County, WA.

In early 2015, MDC will convene a community-wide conversation on Ending Veteran Homelessness in which a call to action will occur. This conversation will focus on bringing together resources from the likely and unlikely places to ensure an eye is kept on the target.

The goals will include the following:

1. Every Veteran who runs up against homelessness will have a clean warm place to sleep immediately
2. Shelter stays will average less than 30 days
3. Once every Veteran is housed, the focus will shift to prevention of homelessness
4. For those with disabilities who “elect” to not be housed, targeted outreach using motivational interviewing will occur, over time, to engage them into programs like Housing First, where there are low barriers to entry and supportive assistance as a level that is tolerable to individuals

Pierce County SSVF grantees could increase the percentage of SSVF resources used for RRH to serve larger number of the expected annual Veteran households. This will be evaluated on a quarterly basis between the two SSVF grantees and adjusted as needed to reach goal of functional zero.

6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System: Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC's coordinated assessment system (e.g., "All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then....). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:

- a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
- b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

AP4H- Access Point for Housing. Pierce County Coordinated Entry

AP4H: AP4H will refer all Veterans at screening to an SSVF program. In addition to immediate referral; Twice a month, SSVF programs will receive an updated roster on active and inactive households from AP4H on the 1st and 15th via fax with HMIS numbers and contact information. SSVF programs will email back to other SSVF program, AP4H, and VA Outreach services with HMIS ID numbers the status of each client. Anyone not screened by SSVF will be contacted within 24 hours. The outcome of that phone call will be shared with other providers so AP4H can update the placement roster. Point of Contact: Geoff Campion and Tammy Boros. Quarterly SSVF programs will send a list of successfully housed clients so AP4H can update their roster.

Veteran Direct Path: SSVF programs screen potential veteran households upon demand through outreach efforts and direct referral from community providers, such as: Tacoma Rescue Mission, CCS Homeless Adult Services, AP4H, VA outreach, Rally Point 6, VFW's, American Legions, Heroes to Hometown, WDVA, Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program, WorkSource, Employment Programs, Operation Good jobs, Domiciliary, Grant Per Diem Programs, and VASH.

Veteran Specific through the VA: Point of Entry for VASH and GPD is through the weekly meeting Veteran Housing Options Group (VHOG) which is held Mondays at 1pm at 1323 South Yakima Ave (CCS). There, Veterans hear about available VA housing programs including VASH, GPD, CWT, and DCHV. In addition, Community partners including AP4H, LLP, WDVA, Rescue Mission, and SSVF are also attending the meeting. Veterans are screened on site for SSVF programs.

- A.) All programs in Pierce County will screen all participants seeking shelter for Veteran status. All programs will ask if participants have served at least 1 day active duty or will ask if they served in any branch of the Armed Forces. Eligible participants for SSVF programs will be referred to MDC/CCS SSVF Programs
- B.) Veterans who become literally homeless will be screened by Greater Lakes Path Team, City of Tacoma Path Team, and through Outreach Services of both MDC and CCS SSVF Programs. Outreach is an essential tool for ending Veteran Homelessness and directing Veterans to the right resources. Veterans who present at the American Lake VA will also be screened for SSVF through their outreach services and will be directed to available SSVF programs, referral will be updated through HMIS system.

7. Long-Term System Improvements: Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

- a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC's planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.
- b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.
- c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

- a) Veterans Homelessness remains a subcommittee of the CoC. Since this planning process has begun, this subcommittee is gaining more attention and more momentum. CCS SSVF program will become lead on the subcommittee along with a VA Outreach Specialist out of American Lake VA hospital.
- b) Metropolitan Development Council and Catholic Community Services coordinate closely with the Veterans Administration, American Lake VA, and Washington Division of Veterans Affairs. This is not a loose coordination. This is a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss ongoing successes and challenges, and to make improvements to the larger interconnected system and the processes shared by all involved.
- c) Local providers and public housing authorities are connected to this effort to end veteran homelessness through the VASH vouchers, and through the broader Continuum of Care coordination activities. Ending Veteran homelessness is one of the big pushes in our local community working to end homelessness. MDC will be convening a community conversation on the topic in the first quarter of 2015 to bring together everyone and rally a call to action to get this accomplished by the end of calendar year 2015.

8. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

Strengths: Outreach and Integration, Team Work

Outreach and Integration

SSVF teams actively outreach throughout Pierce County with community partners. Both teams outreach to encampment sites, freezing nights, 24 hour restaurants, shelters, VA building 148, Domiciliary, Veteran Housing Option Group (VHOG), Community Partners, Retsil GPD program, Heroes to Hometown, Hospitality Kitchen, Nativity House, Coalition Meetings, CoC meetings, Landlord meetings, and other opportunities as they arise.

Shelter: Regularly scheduled outreach performed on site on a weekly basis. In addition, a weekly roster is sent to SSVF and VA outreach teams to connect all Veterans being served in the shelters. This will include: Nativity House, Tacoma Rescue Mission, Adams Street Shelter, Freezing Nights, etc.

VA integration: VA Outreach and SSVF teams meet on a monthly basis to discuss program changes, updates, and coordinated referrals, problems that have arisen, and update budgets. VA Outreach, VASH, and SSVF teams meet quarterly for team building exercises, and to introduce new team members.

Team Work

SSVF: To reduce duplication and reduce wait time for the Veteran, CCS and MDC SSVF teams coordinate data referrals on a weekly basis. Referrals are shared between the programs based on space and ability to serve at that time.

Challenges:

Tracking: CCS and MDC SSVF will meet quarterly to consolidate move-in data in order to actively track how many veteran households are exiting each month based on their move-in dates.

Areas to Improve: CCS SSVF will hire additional staff to meet grant requirements, and will increase outreach opportunities throughout Pierce County. MDC SSVF will hire additional staff to meet grant requirements, and will increase outreach to the smaller shelters and community partners. CCS SSVF and MDC SSVF will also decrease the time between screened and enrolled. SSVF teams will coordinate with local GPD programs as Veterans are identified to need a GPD unit. GPD referrals for Pierce County Veteran Families will go through GPD contact at the VA and also through AP4H. Accurately measuring the demand for homelessness has proven challenging. However, we now have a consistent benchmark for the quantity of homeless veterans each month and we plan to incorporate our outreach into this metric for improved reliability.